

Get through winter with garden plans

A nice variety of books will help to get us through the rest of this cold, cold winter.

The Successful Herb Gardeners: Growing and Using Herbs - Quickly and Easily. Sally Roth (Hearst Books, \$25), has bright photographs of many herbs.

Descriptions include historical facts, sowing, planting, cultivation, harvest, and use tips. Be sure to read the first part of the book that features more in-depth information about all this.

There's not a whole lot of new information for "herbies," but some new ideas are refreshing. Roth has given the important stuff to make herb gardening successful.

The Design Puzzle: Putting the Pieces Together. Bobbie Schwartz, is self-published. She has been gardening for 30 years and a landscape designer for 20.

Schwartz sees the perennial garden as a jigsaw puzzle, and shares her thoughts on each piece, dividing them into specific subjects (i.e. elements of design, plant material sites and seasons, color, textures, particular plants and combinations).

Do you have a shady area? She has the answers for that and other specific garden situations. There are no pictures, but that doesn't take away from Schwartz's information and ideas.

(Cost is \$20 per book, \$19 each for three or more; add \$4.95 per book for shipping and handling. Send cash, or personal or company check, to: Bobbie's Green Thumb, The Design Puzzle, 18405 Van



Garden Spot
Marty Figley

Aken Blvd., Shaker Heights, OH 44122.)

STERLING

The following four books are published by Sterling:

Another book about design, **Country Living Gardener: Gardening Basics: How to Design, Plant and Maintain Your Garden**, Ken Beckett, Steve Bradley, Noel Kingsbury and Tim Newbury (\$19.95), is filled with necessary information to do just as the title states.

The encyclopedic style helps simplify the process - design; choose trees, shrubs, climbers and all other plants; choose and manage vegetable, fruit and herb crops; care for the soil and tools; and nurture and propagate the plants. Learn to create compost and deal with pests and diseases.

This gem covers all the steps for success; the descriptive photographs enhance it.

The Country Gardener: Water Pleasures for Every Garden, Helen Nash (Hearst Books, a division of Sterling, \$17.95), has all kinds of ideas to enhance the water garden, from waterfalls to art.

Learn how to enhance these water features whether they are large or small, formal or informal. Every conceivable type of garden is shown, many of them designed and planted by homeowners.



Water gardens are featured in two books this month.

You'll learn how to install a water garden and use the proper finishing touches to make your own garden special. Some of the garden titles are: Child-safe Fountains, Tropical Rainforest, Collectors, Cottage, Butterfly and Wildlife, Xeriscape, Patio/Courtyard, Evening, Marsh/Damp, and Stream - something for everyone.

Beginner's Guide to Water Gardening, Graham Clarke (\$19.95), was first published in 2002 by Guild of Master Craftsmen Publications Ltd. It gives step-by-step instructions, clearly stated, for a water garden. Each of the five sections gives great advice. The section on creating a water feature explores decisions, how to start, adding features, and clean water. Among other topics are using plants, fish and wildlife, and a year-round maintenance schedule.

The book concludes with frequently asked questions - which you might want to read first, to learn about some problems you might encounter. This book may encourage a

summer project for a family.

Window Gardens for Windows, Walls, Decks and Balconies, Jane Forster and Stephen Roberts (Hearst, \$30), will inspire creativity to design such gardens. The authors show how to design your creations and use color effectively to achieve a "just right" look for each situation.

There are ideas that are simple and easy, and others that are more challenging. Planting schemes are shown for each design and alternative flowers are listed.

The authors follow through from design to maintenance for each planting. They've also included instructions for constructing a box, illustrations of various hanging baskets and brackets, propagation, general maintenance, and pests and diseases. Descriptions of the plants and growing instructions round out this book.

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone. Her fax number is (248) 644-1314.

HOME CALENDAR

Architecture

William Massie, associate professor of architecture at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, will speak in the Architecture series Thursday, Feb. 27, at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield. Massie's lecture, **Data Space**, will take place 7:30 p.m. in the Architecture Auditorium at the university, 21000 W 10 Mile. Admission is free. Refreshments will be served after the talk. For more information, call Michelle Juras at (248) 704-2880.

Quilts

Learn quilting from start to finish with basic square design and progress to more difficult patterns in a six-week class beginning Thursday, March 6, at the Rochester Community House, 816 Ludlow. Fee is \$60.

Pre-registration is required. By mail or at RCH (no credit cards). For information, call (248) 651-0622 or visit www.rochestercommunityhouse.org.

Home decor

Haberman Fabrics, 905 S. Main in Royal Oak, presents a variety of home decor classes.

The schedule includes **Bored Cushions and Window Seats**, Mondays, March 3-17 (5:00); **Pocket Pillow**, Tuesdays, March 4-18 (5:00); and **Advanced Pillow: Mixed Corners**, Wednesdays, March 5-19 (5:00). Advance registration is necessary. Some classes have pre-requisites. For more information, call (248) 541-0010 or visit www.habermanfabrics.com.

Bookmark giveaway

In honor of National Reading Month, guests may pick up a complimentary Reading is Fun bookmark while supplies last at all Art Van Furniture.

stores Sunday, March 2.

Coloring contest

Youngsters can win a Flucker the Dragon plush toy by entering a coloring contest at the Kids Castle at select Art Van Furniture stores now through Saturday, March 1. Kids Castles are supervised play areas for children. One winner will be chosen from each of four age groups (3-4, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12) at each Kids Castle. Entry forms and details are at Art Van stores at 21775 Novi Road in Novi, 14055 Hall in Shelby Township and 6500 14 Mile in Warren.

Capuchin donations

Residents are asked to join Art Van Furniture and MAGICIOUS IFM personalities in supporting the Capuchin Soup Kitchen's Shower Program 6/10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 28, at Art Van, 6500 14 Mile in Warren. Needed items include: men's, women's and children's new underwear; gently used shoes and socks; and trial-size toiletries. Cash donations are also welcome. *Jim Harper and the Magic Morning Show* will be broadcast live from the store. Art Van will provide a special coupon offer to guests who make a donation. Refreshments will be served.

Octagon House

The Octagon House, 57500 Van Dyke Avenue in Washington Township, is open for public tours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. the second and fourth Sunday of each month. Adult admission is \$3. For more information, call the Octagon House at (586) 781-0084 and leave a message. The on-line Octagon House event calendar can be viewed at www.calendar.yahoo.com/octagonhouse. e1850.

GARDEN CALENDAR

Iris club

The Iris Club of Southeast Michigan will host a slide presentation at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27, at the Royal Oak Senior Community Center, 3506 Marais, three blocks east of Crooks and three blocks north of 13 Mile. The American Iris Society's hybridizers provided the club with 140 slide photos of their 2002 iris introductions. The event is free. For information, call (248) 280-0848.

Hardy Plant Society

The Hardy Plant Society presents "Gardening Fitness: Weeding Out the Aches and Pains," by Linda Geyer of Peak Physique at 7 p.m. Monday, March 2, at the Congregational Church of Birmingham, on Woodward next to the Cranbrook Institute. All are welcome. Fee for guests is \$3. For information, call (248) 589-2266.

Farmington Garden Club

The Farmington Garden Club will meet at noon Monday, March 3, at Longacre House, on the west side of Farmington Road between 11 and 10 Mile. Jan Dolan will present a workshop on basic flower arranging. Bring a bowl, cylinder or other basic container, adhesive, secure pin holder, icicleberg or other small mums, boxwood or

any suitable material. Call (248) 615-3616 for information.

Beverly Hills Garden Club

The Beverly Hills Garden Club will meet 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 4, at the Beverly Hills Village Office, 18500 W 13 Mile. Nancy Passfield will present a program on flower designs throughout Your Home. Guests are welcome.

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